



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

June 24, 2008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-8-13

SUBJECT: LTP – TSP TECHNICAL SERVICE PAYMENT RATES

Purpose. To distribute guidance on use of “TSP Technical Service Payment Rates” information.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

Current TechReg “TSP Technical Service Payment Rates” will be used for new line items in EQIP contracts. The rates will also be used to estimate total value of conservation practice design, installation and checkout services to be provided in new contribution agreements (CAs). Use rates in place at the time existing EQIP contracts or contribution agreements were finalized when units of current line items have changed from units originally placed into the existing contracts or CAs.

Funding to provide the same service to the same producer cannot be in both an EQIP contract and a contribution agreement.

Only EQIP FY 2003 or 2004 contracts are eligible to have TA added for either or both nutrient management and pest management, and then only if the original contracts originally had TA line items for first year nutrient or pest management. Specifically, any TA now added should be for the second or third year of scheduled management.

TA funding is currently considered annual funding. Specifically, TA funding is added to an EQIP contract one year at a time based on availability of TA funding that year. Do not add more than one year of TA funding to an EQIP contract in any given year. Also, contribution agreements are currently considered annual agreements. Do not use TA dollars in CAs for tasks that cannot be completed within 12 months of finalization of the CA.

TSP TA payment rates can be found at: <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/NTE/TSPNTE2/index.asp>. Consult Bulletin 300-6-21 if instructions are needed on use of that site to calculate rates. Remember that two dropdown sets of TSP Technical Service payment rates are available in each county when selecting a general practice (Step 3): The main set, and one immediately below the main set called “These practices have also been made available for this region.” Some specific practices may also have several options to choose from in Step 4: Initial options, and other options found immediately below under “Also available in this area.” Select the option closest to the actual condition.

Supplemental guidance

1. Nutrient Management without manure or Pest Management. Use the “cropland” land use in Step 4.
2. Nutrient management with manure (second or third year). Use either the “CNMP” or “cropland” land use in Step 4. In most counties the CNMP land use provides a slightly higher rate. In some counties the cropland land use provides a slightly higher rate.
3. Contribution Agreements- Nutrient Management with manure (first year). Use the Waste Utilization Practice (633) and the “CNMP” land use.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



4. Contribution Agreements – Facility assessment portion of CNMPs. Use the “Planning for a CNMP-Other Animals” practice.
5. Field Borders (386). Use either Filter Strip (393) or Critical Area Planting (342) to derive rates. Remember that field border units are in feet and 393 and 342 units are in acres.
6. Manure management systems comprised of numerous components. Select the most appropriate system(s) for practice 313, Waste Storage Facility. Do not include TA for Roof Runoff structure (558) if using TA for 313. However, calculate and separately show the following practices not included in practice 313 systems:

Animal Mortality Facilities (316); Closure of Waste Impoundments (360); Composting Facilities (317); Waste Facility Covers (367); and Wastewater Treatment Strip (635).

Submit a written request with documentation to the State Conservationist requesting approval of a revised rate if special circumstances exist that justify a higher technical assistance rate than indicated by the TSP technical service payment rate calculator. The request must be made prior to obligating TA funds.

Contact your Area Engineer or Area Resource Conservationist for technical service rates on general or specific practices not listed in the calculator. They will forward your request with their recommendations to John Brach or Jeff St. Ores in the state office for approval.

Direct EQIP questions to Tim Koehler, ASTC (Farm Bill) or Sid Cornelius.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
FO
ENG
ARC
APS
ECS
Tim Koehler, ASTC, St. Paul, MN
Charles Montgomery, SAO, St. Paul
Laurie Otte, MSS, St. Paul, MN
Jeff St. Ores, WQS, St. Paul, MN
Sid Cornelius, RC, St. Paul, MN
John Brach, SCE, St. Paul, MN
Rich Giles, Steve Lutes, Jeff King, Regional Nutrient/Pest Management Specialists